

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of encoding data for transmission from a source to a destination over a communications channel, the method comprising:
 - generating a plurality of redundant symbols from an ordered set of input symbols to be transmitted; and
 - generating a plurality of output symbols from a combined set of symbols including the input symbols and the redundant symbols, wherein the number of possible output symbols is much larger than the number of symbols in the combined set of symbols, wherein at least one output symbol is generated from more than one symbol in the combined set of symbols and from less than all of the symbols in the combined set of symbols, such that the ordered set of input symbols can be regenerated to a desired degree of accuracy from any predetermined number, N, of the output symbols.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the plurality of output symbols over a communications channel.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the plurality of output symbols on a storage media.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein N is greater than the number of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein N is less than or equal to the number of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a number R of redundant symbols to generate based on the number K of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein K is an estimate of the number of input symbols.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of redundant symbols is generated according to a LDPC code.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of redundant symbols includes a plurality of first redundant symbols and a plurality of second redundant symbols, and wherein the step of generating the plurality of redundant symbols comprises:

- generating the plurality of first redundant symbols from the input symbols;
- and
- generating the plurality of second redundant symbols from the first redundant symbols and the input symbols.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of first redundant symbols is generated according to a Hamming code, and wherein the plurality of second redundant symbols is generated according to a LDPC code.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
determining a number $D+1$ of first redundant symbols based on the number K of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols; and
determining a number E of second redundant symbols based on a number R of redundant symbols to generate and $D+1$.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising determining R based on K.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein K is an estimate of the number of input symbols.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein D is a smallest integer such that $2D - D - 1 \geq K$, and wherein $E = R - D - 1$.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the desired accuracy is complete recovery of the input symbols.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the desired accuracy is complete recovery of the input symbols with a high probability.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the desired accuracy is recovery of G input symbols, wherein G is less than the number of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.

1 27. A system for encoding data for transmission from a source to a
2 destination over a communications channel, the system comprising:
3 a static encoder coupled to receive a plurality of input symbols, the plurality of
4 input symbols generated from data to be transmitted, the static encoder including a redundant
5 symbol generator that generates a plurality of redundant symbols based on the input symbols;
6 and
7 a dynamic encoder coupled to receive the plurality of input symbols and the
8 plurality of redundant symbols, the dynamic encoder including an output symbol generator
9 that generates a plurality of output symbols from a combined set of symbols including the
10 plurality of input symbols and the plurality of redundant symbols, wherein the number of
11 possible output symbols is much larger than the number of symbols in the combined set,
12 wherein at least one output symbol is generated from more than symbol from the combined
13 set and from less than all of the symbols in the combined set, such that the ordered set of
14 input symbols can be regenerated to a desired degree of accuracy from any predetermined
15 number, N, of the output symbols.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein N is greater than the number of input
2 symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.

1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein N is less than or equal to the number
2 of input symbols in the ordered set of input symbols.

1 30. The system of claim 27, further comprising a transmit module, coupled
2 to the dynamic encoder and to a communications channel, that receives the output symbols
3 and transmits the output symbols over the communications channel.

1 31. The system of claim 27, further comprising a key generator, coupled to
2 the dynamic encoder, that generates a key for each output symbol to be generated, wherein
3 the dynamic encoder is coupled to receive each key, and wherein the dynamic encoder
4 generates each output symbol based on the corresponding key.

1 32. The system of claim 27, further comprising a key generator, coupled to
2 the static encoder, that generates a key for each of at least some of the redundant symbols to
3 be generated, wherein the static encoder is coupled to receive each key, and wherein the static

4 encoder generates each of the at least some redundant symbols based on the corresponding
5 key.

1 33. The system of claim 27, wherein the static encoder includes a LDPC
2 encoder.

1 34. The system of claim 27, wherein the static encoder further comprises a
2 first static encoder having a first redundant symbol generator, and a second static encoder
3 having a second redundant symbol generator;

4 wherein the plurality of redundant symbols includes a first plurality of
5 redundant symbols and a

6 a second plurality of redundant symbols;

7 wherein the first redundant symbol generator generates the first plurality of
8 redundant symbols based on the input symbols; and

9 wherein the second redundant symbol generator generates the second plurality
10 of redundant symbols based on the input symbols and the first plurality of redundant
11 symbols.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the first static encoder includes a
2 Hamming encoder, and wherein the second static encoder includes a LDPC encoder.

1 36. A method of receiving data transmitted from a source over a
2 communications channel, the method comprising:

3 receiving output symbols, wherein each output symbol is generated from at
4 least one symbol in a combined set of input symbols and redundant symbols, wherein at least
5 one output symbol is generated from more than one symbol in the combined set and less than
6 all of the symbols in the combined set, wherein the number of possible output symbols is
7 much larger than the number of symbols in the combined set, wherein the input symbols are
8 from an ordered set of input symbols, wherein the redundant symbols are generated from the
9 input symbols;

10 upon receiving at least a subset of the output symbols, regenerating at least a
11 subset of the symbols in the combined set from the output symbols, the subset of the symbols
12 in the combined set including a plurality of regenerated input symbols and a plurality of
13 regenerated redundant symbols;

14 if the step of regenerating at least a subset of the symbols from the N output
15 symbols does not regenerate the input symbols to a desired degree of accuracy, regenerating
16 at least some of unregenerated input symbols from the plurality of regenerated redundant
17 symbols and the plurality of regenerated input symbols.

1 37. The method of claim 36, wherein the redundant symbols include a first
2 plurality of redundant symbols and a second plurality of redundant symbols, wherein the step
3 of regenerating at least some of the unregenerated input symbols includes:

4 regenerating, from the regenerated redundant symbols of the first plurality of
5 redundant symbols and the plurality of regenerated input symbols, at least one of the
6 unregenerated input symbols and unregenerated redundant symbols of the second plurality of
7 redundant symbols; and

8 if the step of regenerating from the regenerated redundant symbols of the first
9 plurality of redundant symbols and the plurality of regenerated input symbols does not
10 regenerate the input symbols to a desired degree of accuracy, regenerating at least one
11 unregenerated input symbol from redundant symbols of the second plurality of redundant
12 symbols and the plurality of decoded input symbols.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein some of the unregenerated input
2 symbols and unregenerated redundant symbols of the second plurality of redundant symbols
3 is regenerated using an LDPC decoder; and

4 wherein the some input symbol is regenerated from redundant symbols of the
5 second plurality of redundant symbols using a Hamming decoder.

1 39. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of regenerating at least some
2 of unregenerated input symbols includes regenerating all of the unregenerated input symbols.

1 40. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of regenerating at least the
2 subset of the symbols in the combined set and the step of regenerating at least some of
3 unregenerated input symbols include:

4 forming a first matrix that indicates, for each received output symbol, the
5 symbols in the combined set associated with the output symbol;

6 augmenting the first matrix with information that indicates, for each redundant
7 symbol, the input symbols associated with the redundant symbol; and

8 regenerating at least some of the input symbols as a solution to a system of
9 equations indicated by the augmented first matrix.

1 41. The method of claim 36, wherein N is greater than or equal to the
2 number of input symbols.

1 42. The method of claim 36, wherein N is smaller than the number of input
2 symbols.

1 43. The method of claim 36, wherein regenerating at least some of
2 unregenerated input symbols includes regenerating all of the input symbols.

1 44. The method of claim 36, wherein regenerating at least some of
2 unregenerated input symbols includes regenerating less than all of the input symbols.

1 45. A system for receiving data transmitted from a source over a
2 communications channel, the system comprising:

3 a receive module coupled to a communications channel for receiving output
4 symbols transmitted over the communications channel, wherein each output symbol is
5 generated from at least one symbol in a combined set of input symbols and redundant
6 symbols, wherein at least one output symbol is generated from more than one symbol in the
7 combined set and less than all of the symbols in the combined set, wherein the number of
8 possible output symbols is much larger than the number of symbols in the combined set,
9 wherein the input symbols are from an ordered set of input symbols, wherein the redundant
10 symbols are generated from the input symbols;

11 a dynamic decoder that, upon receiving at least a subset of the output symbols,
12 decodes a subset of the symbols in the combined set from the output symbols, the subset of
13 the symbols in the combined set including a plurality of decoded input symbols and a
14 plurality of decoded redundant symbols; and

15 a static decoder that decodes at least some of undecoded input symbols, if any,
16 from the plurality of decoded redundant symbols.

1 46. The system of claim 45, wherein the static decoder includes a LDPC
2 decoder.

